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RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 1950
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4050
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 6842
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0395
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 2685
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 4849
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 1518
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 9804
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1900
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/25/2017
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [AF](#) [PK](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: JIRGA INVITATION UPDATE

REF: A. MARTIN/GRENCIK E-MAIL OF 23 FEBRUARY 2007

[1](#)B. ISLAMABAD 608
[1](#)C. KABUL 528

Classified By: Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (C) On February 21, Mark Pont, the UNAMA representative in Islamabad, told us he had heard "rumors" that President Karzai had instructed Pir Gilani not to respond to an invitation to visit Islamabad to discuss cross-border or parallel jirgas. Pont, who is friends with some of Gilani's relatives, was attempting to confirm or put down the rumor. On February 23, Minister of Interior (and Pakistan Jirga Commission Chairman) Sherpao informed the Ambassador that he had indeed invited Gilani to Islamabad some weeks before but had not received a reply. He said he intended to call Gilani on February 23 or 24 to reiterate the invitation.

[1](#)2. (C) After the Ambassador's meeting, Embassy Islamabad contacted Embassy Kabul to advise them of the pending phone call. Per ref A, it appears subsequent enquiries by Embassy Kabul ascertained that Pakistan's invitation had been delivered to -- and held up in -- Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and only forwarded to Gilani in late February.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: Whether it was Sherpao's intervention or Embassy Kabul's, we are happy to see the Government of Afghanistan's 25 February press release indicating that Afghanistan has accepted Pakistan's invitation to travel to Pakistan to discuss the cross-border jirgas. End Comment.
CROCKER